4 NY Post - 6/25/71

Kill Gunman On Nixon's Route in Chi

By PAUL McGRATH
and WALTER SPIRKO

CHICAGO (CS-T)—A West Virginia man who Chicago police believe came here to assassinate President Nixon was shot to death yesterday in a gun battle with police in Grant Park, across the street from the Pick-Congress Hotel, one of the President's scheduled stops on his Chicago trip.

The gunman, armed with two .32-caliber revolvers purchased Monday in West Virginia, engaged in the gunfight with police at the height of the evening rush hour.

He was identified by papers in his pockets as James E. Beavers, 47, of Squire, W. Va.

Nixon reached Chicago yesterday evening and was scheduled to address a conference of retired persons at the Pick-Congress today.

Relatives said Beavers had recently commented bitterly against Nixon and the President's conduct of the Indochina war.

Beavers' relatives also said he had a history of mental illness beginning when he was shell-shocked while serving with the Army in the South Pacific during World War II.

His sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Chambers. 57, of Squire, said her brother shot and killed her first husband in a drunken fight in 1950 and subsequently was confined in a mental hospital for several years.

She said he was in and out of Veterans Administration mental hospitals and was released from a mental hospital in El Paso, Tex. six weeks ago.

Police said attention was drawn to Beavers when one of his revolvers apparently fell from his clothing as he sat on a box while waiting for a bus in the park.

Ruth Jackson, 42, walked over to a traffic policeman standing nearby and said: "There's something wrong — that man over there has a gun."

The policeman asked for reinforcements, and a group of plainclothes detectives rushed to the park and gradually surrounded Beavers.

Within minutes, eight detectives were watching Beavvers.

Patrolman David Marlowe slowly approached him and said: "Give us the gun. Let's talk about it."

After Marlow repeatedly asked for the gun, Beavers said, according to the police: "Stay away. I don't want any trouble."

When the policeman again asked for the gun, Beavers said, "You'll have to take it from me." At this point, officers said, Beavers whirled and fired twice.

Seven of the detectives, who had their revolvers ready but out of sight, then fired a total of 29 shots at Beavers from a relatively short distance. The gunman fell to the grass, wounded in the left arm, right leg and chest.

He was shabbily dressed. In his pockets police found three cents, a Bible and a package of gum.

His Guns Were New

His guns, matched .32-caliber foreign-made revolvers, had been purchased Monday in Welch, W. Va., 12 miles from his family home, police said.

A receipt in Beaver's pocket showed he paid $39.80 for the weapons and 550 cartridges at the Welch Hardware & Furnishings Co.

No exrta ammunition for the pistols was found, police said. It was not known where Beavers was staying in Chicago.

His sister, Mrs. Chambers, said Beavers had been "acting funny and talking strange" evre since he got

one of the President's scheduled stops on his Chicago trip.

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'Life Celebrants' Rock 'Til Dawn

McCREA, La. (AP) — With young music fans yawning at the approach of sunrise, rock musicians

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His sister, Mrs. Chambers, said Beavers had been "acting funny and talking strange" evre since he got out of the Army in 1943 or 1944 and his behavior had grown more erratic in recent weeks.

"He left here Monday morning. He didn't say where he was going or what he was going to do, but he said he was going to buy him a gun and take a bus or a plane." she sid.

Mrs. Chambres said Beaver frequently railed against Nixn and the war and called some persons in town "Reds" and "Commies."

She said that at the time President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963 her brother told her, "Oswald didn't do it. I did it. But it doesn't matter, they can't kill me. Every time they kill me, I'll just come back again."